



Experienced in convoy security, (left to right) Tech. Sgt. Andrew Morin and Staff Sgts. Jeremy Garcia and Frank Stibler keep an eye on how the 181st Transportation Battalion's convoy security team prepares their convoy escort platforms. The NCOs serve as evaluators and guides for the Soldiers as their unit, the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, gets ready to head home after two years of unit operations.

AIR FORCE REMAINS FOCUSED
ON CONVOY SUPPORT
AS UNIT PREPARES
FOR TRIP HOME

ROAD WARRIORS

story compiled by Airman staff

photos by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung

It's a nontraditional mission the Air Force hasn't carried out since Vietnam, but when demands for the Army's services exceeded capability, the Air Force responded to the call for help. Today, more than 305 Airmen provide convoy security in Iraq. They come from bases all around the world and from a variety of career fields like vehicle operations and security forces. To get them all on the same page, the Basic Combat Convoy Course provides these Airmen the combat skills needed to stay alive. More than 1,800 Airmen have been taught how to use weapons, tactics, maneuvers and small-unit and leadership skills. All in the

effort to make them battlefield and mission ready. And that mission of protecting lives and equipment is a vital one. "We provide security for the line-haulers who are taking cargo to the different forward-operating bases in theater," said Tech. Sgt. Andrew Morin, a convoy commander with the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's Detachment 2632. "We make sure everything gets safely to the FOB and then safely back." Even though the Air Force is still a major participant in convoy security in Iraq, for one unit, the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's

Detachment 2632, it's time to pack up and turn over operations back to the Army. The unit has been operating convoys from Balad Air Base, Iraq, a major supply hub servicing outlying military posts by military airlift and convoys. Approximately 10,000 Soldiers and 2,000 Airmen share the former Iraqi air base. After months of grueling heat, blowing sand, intense rain and mud, and dodging bullets and bombs, the unit is leaving their mission to the Army, making their last convoy — a trip back home. 🇺🇸



Ready to roll, (top) truck tractors and Army palletized loading system vehicles sit ready for an early combat convoy run from Balad Air Base, Iraq, to Forward Operating Base Caldwell. Army Private 1st Class Darrell Cole (far right), C Battery, scans the horizon from the top of a Humvee. Army Sgt. Cortney Carter (at right, center) briefs convoy security teams and truck drivers about requirements for the convoy mission — (left to right) Army Pvt. Shawn Wolfe, Staff Sgt. Frank Stibler, Army Pfc. Daniel Lynd, Army Sgt. Nicholas Wisebaker and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Garcia.



Suspicious vehicles that may block travel (top left), or snipers on rooftops keep combat convoy personnel alert. Tech. Sgt. Andrew Morin (top right), convoy commander, brings up position data on a Precision Lightweight Global Positioning System Receiver. An Army palletized loading system vehicle (bottom) crosses the Tigris river on a pontoon bridge during a convoy to a forward operating base in Iraq.

